

Legislative Research
SAFLL-2

January 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Thurmond, Strom - Democrat - Senator from South Carolina

Home: Aiken, South Carolina

Born: Edgefield, S.C. - December 5, 1902

Marital Status: Jean Crouch - (died January 6, 1960)

Education: Clemson, 1923 (B.S.). Studied law at night - admitted to S.C. bar 1930

Profession: Lawyer
Educator

State Senator (1933-38) - Circuit Judge (1938-46) - Governor (1947-51)
States's Rights Candidate for President (1948) - Practiced law -
Elected U.S. Senate 1955; 1961

Military: Volunteer WW II day war declared. Served with Headquarters First Army (1942-46) ETO. Participated: Normandy invasion with 82d Airborne Division - awarded 5 battle stars and 16 decorations, medals, and awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V", Army Commendation Ribbon, Purple Heart, Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation, Belgian Order of the Crown, and French Croix de Guerre.
Past national president of Reserve Officers' Association.
Major General US Army Reserve (April 25, 1960)

Bases: Charleston, Donaldson (closing June 1962), Myrtle Beach, Shaw.

Committees: Armed Services (Subcommittees: Study Conflict of Interest Laws; Status of Forces Treaty; National Stockpile and Naval Petroleum Reserves; Cold War Menace; Land Reentry Rights)

Commerce (Subcommittees: No. 2 and 3 - Aviation)

Board of Visitors - Naval Academy

86th Congress - comments --

Extremely active in reserve affairs. Keeps up to date. Took active duty training in fall of 1959 at Command and General Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth. On November 28, 1959 the Register and Defense Times reported he feels we must be prepared to wage chemical and bacteriological warfare if it becomes necessary with emphasis on gases that incapacitate rather than kill. Also called for nuclear testing both atmospheric and underground.

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In March of 1959 visited AF Ballistic Missile Division (Englewood) -- received briefing in financial aspects of the programs together with explanation of management concept.

Nike-Zeus - commended Military Construction Subcommittee for bringing out strong bill which would promote Nike-Zeus program. (Cong. Record June 30, 1959)

MATS - FY60 DOD budget debate - proposed amendment to cut MATS procurement of commercial carriers funds from \$100 million to \$70 million, and then amended it to read as the House-passed version - to \$80 million. However, amendment was defeated on roll call vote 46 to 46.

During debate of conference report of HR 7978, FY60 supplemental he supported Senator Cannon -- believes MATS is being allowed to deteriorate; that it appears ATA is opposed to MATS' modernization. (Cong. Record August 19, 1959)

On May 26, 1960 he said MATS has proven its ability to operate to maximum degree permitted within limits of present equipment but said there's crying need for further modernization. (Cong. Record Page 10347)

As Chairman of Procurement Subcommittee (SASC) issued Senate Report 1900 - on Procurement -

Findings:

1. Most, if not all procurement problems in DOD can be solved administratively.
2. All major contract types now in use have appropriate uses if applied in the circumstances in which their use is intended and if skillfully negotiated and administered. All of the major contract types now used can produce undesirable cost, price, or profit consequences if used inappropriately or if they are not carefully negotiated and administered.
3. Indispensable prerequisites for formal advertising frequently do not exist in modern military procurement and hence some contracts must be negotiated.
4. Negotiation does not necessarily mean absence of competition. Extent of the competition that may be obtained under each of the 17 exceptions varies in accordance with nature of exception.
5. Procurement law does not retard availability of advance weapons systems. However, programming decisions and administration of laws frequently result in unnecessary delay.
6. Volume of contemporary military procurement is such that authority must be delegated.
7. Complexities of contemporary military procurement are such that procurement law cannot be so inflexible as to preclude exercise of judgment by procurement officials. In this area, as in so many areas of government, it is virtually impossible to legislate a requirement that good judgment be used.

Recommendations:

I. Procurement Regulations be amended to state affirmatively a preference for formal advertising whenever practicable.

II. Regulations governing use of exception 14 should be revised to make clear that use of this exception should not be founded on avoidance of duplication of private investment unless this duplication could be shown to result in additional cost to Government.

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III. The regulation covering conduct of negotiations be changed to expand requirement for discussions with offerors under negotiated procurements.

IV . Regulation on incentive contracts be amended to require a contractual provision permitting adjustment of the target cost to exclude any amounts by which the target cost was increased because of inaccurate, incomplete, or out of date cost data submitted by contractor.

V . Procurement regulations be amended to require more specific determinations and findings.

VI . Regulations be expanded to include requirement for written findings before certain of exceptions may be used to negotiate contracts.

VII. The Depts should continue efforts to develop adequate specifications and to use those that have been developed in an attempt to make practical more procurement by formal advertising.

VIII. Depts. and prime contractors continue efforts to publicize the prospective awarding of subcontracts in an attempt to secure more competition.

IX . Depts. should continue emphasis that is being placed on training of procurement personnel.

87th Congress - comments --

Procurement -- referred to his report (above) and DOD action implementing substantially all of the recommendations. (Cong. Record February 2, 1961 P 1577)

ICBM Threat - Warned against communist threats - in economic areas and underdeveloped countries. Called for alert position economically, intellectually, and militarily. Believes defense against ballistic missiles high on Soviet priority list. Can't accept idea that shelters more, bigger, and better is the only way to preserve our way of life from incoming missiles. He's convinced Nike-Zeus can provide defense Nation needs to meet and master the ICBM threat. (Cong. Record February 2, 1961 Page 1580)

On February 24, 1961 he called Nike-Zeus only defense system under active development in free world. Urged support from Members. (Cong. Record 2504)

During hearings by Senate Armed Services Committee on authorizing aircraft, missiles, etc. expressed disappointment that partial production of some component parts for Nike Zeus was not authorized. (P 62 April 1961) During same hearings inquired about chemical warfare (field long neglected); need for strong Reserve; and again reiterated need for Nike-Zeus program.

Seminars -- think's there's a concerted attack under way against anti-Communist indoctrination of the American people and our troops in uniform, and particularly against participation in this effort by our military officers. Called for an investigation. Said it's needed not on whether our military officers are informing public and troops about communism but on the "conspiracy to discredit and intimidate the military leaders of our country." (Cong. Record July 29, 1961 Page 12997)

On July 31, 1961 he continued on this subject. (Cong. Record July 31, 1961 Page 13170) On August 2, 1961 he said there has come to his attention a document which conforms in minute detail to the description related in the aforesaid news articles of the memorandum which provided the basis for these news stories (made earlier reference to numerous news stories on the subject) Further, he said, these articles describe in some detail a memorandum which purportedly originated

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Discussed policies resulting from psychological warfare. Said the foremost target of this attack is our Military Establishment. . . As I have previously mentioned on the floor, one effect of this campaign is censorship of the statements of military leaders, which goes far beyond any requirements of security classification or the insurance of compliance with civilian-made policy, unless we admit in the latter instance that we have adopted the very policies impressed upon us by Communist psychological warfare attacks. . . The success of the communist campaign is apparent elsewhere, particularly in the cancellation and postponements of anti-communist seminars in which the cooperation of military personnel, or use of military facilities, has been scheduled. (Cong. Record August 25, 1961 Page 15998)

On August 28, 1961 he referred to testimony by Edward Hunter before Senate Internal Security Subcommittee wherein Mr. Hunter described "in detail both the method of operation of communism in the US today and the circles utilized by communists to conduct their campaign of psychological warfare." (Cong. Record August 28, 1961 Page 16421)

Called attention of Senate to "new evidence of the muzzling of American military leaders and the disastrous result that it is having on our people and national security." Called evidence in a new book: "Combat Missleman". Said book contains shocking statements of warning from some of our highest military men. It tells in detail the strategic reasons why we are being pushed back step by step and undermined by communist Russia. (Cong. Record Sept. 16, 1961 P 18674)

Said after review of material, additional material submitted and testimony of S/Defense, he is convinced evidence substantiates need for investigation which he proposed by the S. Armed Services Committee. Discussed actions of DOD within 3 separate categories (1) censorship (2) troop information and education programs (3) use of military facilities and personnel in informational programs for the public. Said: "I am interested neither in motives nor personalities. It is cause and effect with which I am concerned." (Cong. Record Sept. 18, 1961)

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